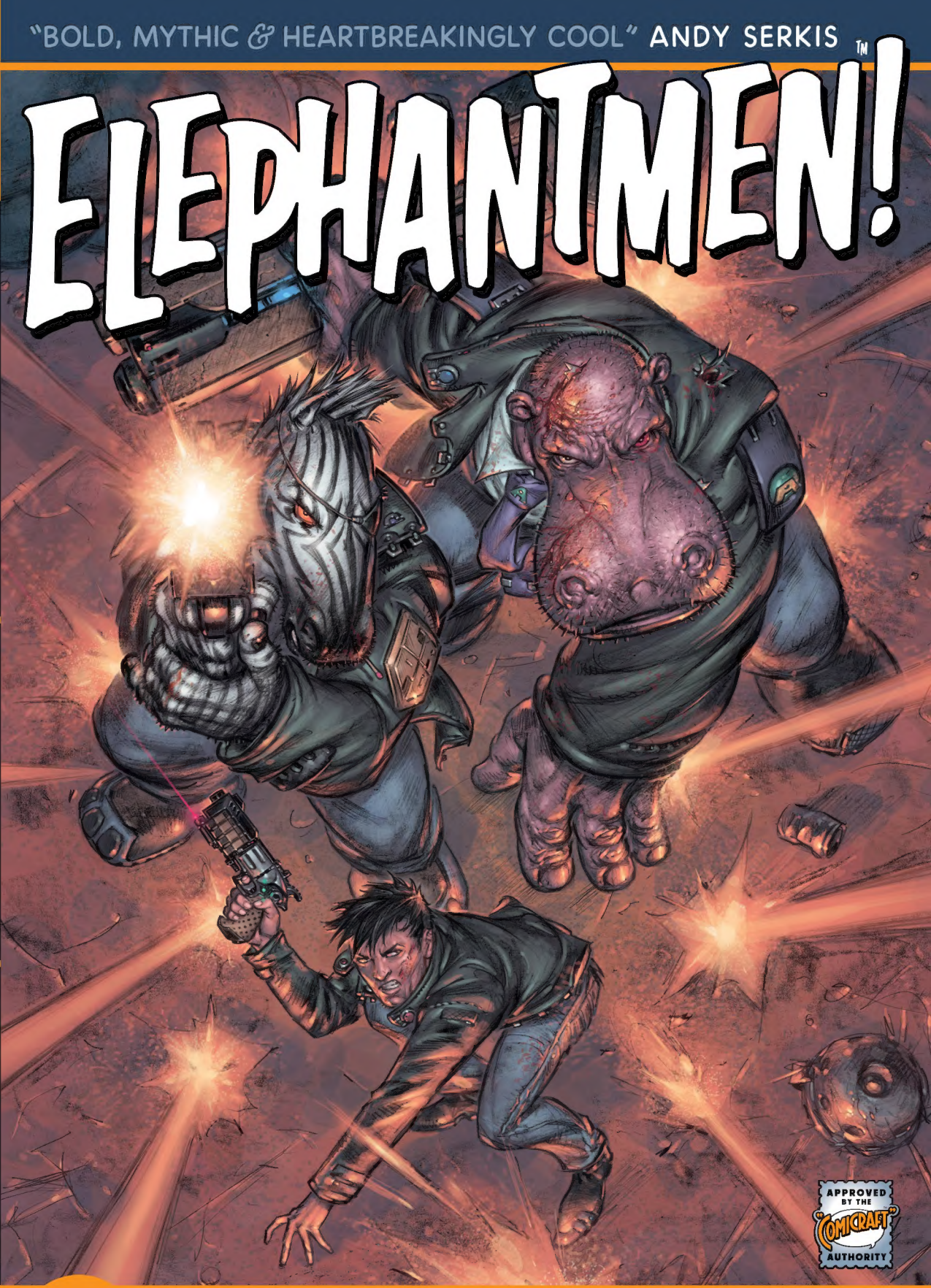
"BOLD, MYTHIC & HEARTBREAKINGLY COOL" ANDY SERKIS

ELEPHANTMEN!™



2260 BOOK FOUR

"ALL COMING EVIL"

STARKINGS · MEDELLIN · SALE · COOK · KARIBU · DAVIS · ROSHELL

Image Comics presents:

ELEPHANTMEN

RICHARD STARKINGS • AXEL MEDELLIN

77813

ALL COMING EVIL

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We need more understanding of human nature, because the only real danger that exists is man himself.
He is the great danger.
And we are pitifully unaware of it.
We know nothing of man, far too little.
His psyche should be studied...
...because we are the origin of all coming evil.
C.G. Jung

ELEPHANTMEN

El•e•phant•men [el-*uh*-*fuh*nt-men] noun:
1. Transgenics; human/animal hybrids, genetically engineered by the **MAPPO Corporation** for military deployment in the **Afro-Sino War** (2239-2243). Rehabilitated by the **United Nations**, these creatures were gradually inculcated into human society.
2. Derogatory term for such.

ALL COMING EVIL
Part One: PROMETHEAN FIRE

Richard Starkings Words & Axel Medellin Art

WHERE? I DON'T...
STAY TIGHT, FARRELL. JUST WAIT UNTIL YOU SEE...
OOF!
RED!
AND THEY SAY I'M COLD-BLOODED...

OPEN WIDE AND SAY "AH."
FSHOOM
AAAHHHHHHH!
THOOM
Y'KNOW, TRENCH, I NEVER LIKED THE CROCS EITHER, BUT YOU DON'T HAVE TO ENJOY IT!
FLASK, WHAT KIND OF CRAP HAVE YOU GUYS ROPED ME INTO THIS TIME?
CHOOM CHOOM
FTAM FTAM FTAM

SAME CRAP. DIFFERENT DAY.

FIGURES.

STAY SHARP. THAT'S JUST *FOUR* OF THESE MUNTS DOWN.

THAT LEAVES JUST FIVE OR SIX MORE TO GO.

YOU COULDN'T FIND A BIGGER GUN, HIP?
WELL, YOU KNOW HOW IT IS... BIG HANDS...
UNHH
FREAKIN' MAMMALS...
BITE ME.
BLAM
FREAKIN' REPTILES.
MAN, I'M SURE GLAD I'M ON YOUR SIDE...
THE WEAK ARE ALWAYS HAPPY WHEN THEY ARE PROTECTED BY THE STRONG.
BUT WHEN THE STRONG ONLY LOOK OUT FOR THEMSELVES, THEN THE COMPLAINTS START ROLLING IN...
ON YOUR RIGHT, FARRELL!

HELL IN A HANDBAG!
AHHHHH HAHHHHHHH AHHHHHH HAHH!
FTAM FTAM FTAM
DAMN, I AM NOT DRESSED FOR THIS.
ISN'T THERE A FLAK JACKET FOR Y'KNOW... TEETH?
NICE SHOOTING, LET'S MOVE ON.
THE SOONER WE GET THIS OVER WITH, THE BETTER.

SO DO YOU GUYS WANT TO TELL ME WHAT IT WAS YOU SCREWED UP *SO BADLY* THAT THEY SENT YOU DOWN HERE?

GATE CRASHED THAT *WEDDING*, REMEMBER?

Oh, THAT'S *RIGHT*.

AND I DIDN'T EVEN GET ANY *CAKE*.

TWO WEEKS EARLIER VENICE BEACH • 2260

I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE THINKING.

YOU THINK THIS WILL ALL ***BLOW OVER.*** THE WHOLE SORRY MESS WILL BE ***COVERED UP.***

THE FATALITIES FORGOTTEN.

BECAUSE YOU WORK ***HERE.*** BECAUSE YOU'RE *INFORMATION AGENTS.*

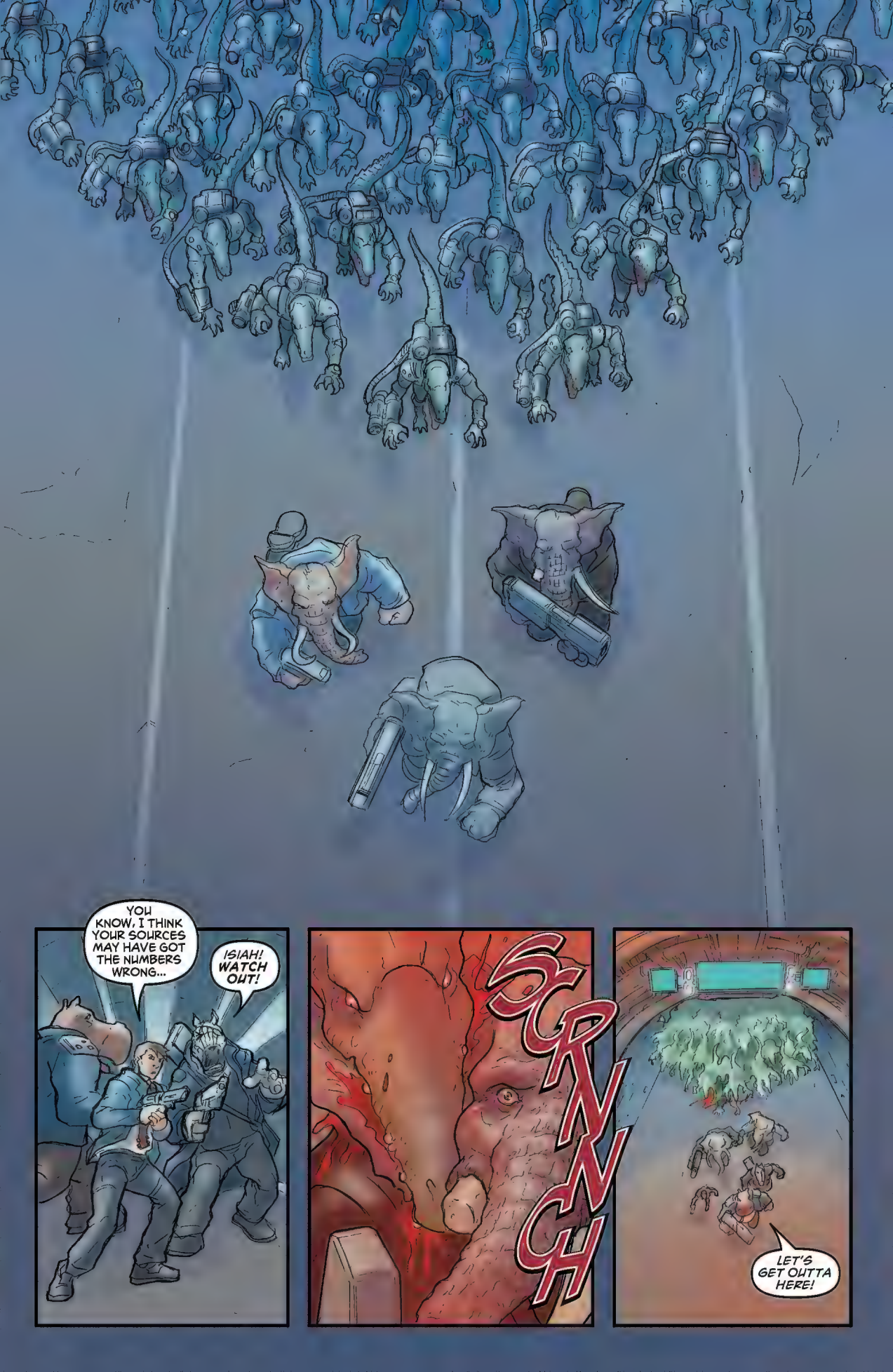
OR BECAUSE ***OBADIAH HORN*** HAS MONEY AND ***SAHARA*** IS A *"BELOVED"* PUBLIC FIGURE.

IS IT INAPPROPRIATE TO NOTE THAT I WAS ACTUALLY *AT HOME* THE WHOLE TI--
AND YET STILL IN POSSESSION OF BOTH HUMAN *AND* ANIMAL DNA. EB...
I DON'T THINK THIS IS ABOUT *WHERE* YOU WERE, IT'S ABOUT *WHAT* WE *ARE*...
LOOK, YOU'RE NOT JUST BEING GIVEN A LEAVE OF ABSENCE.
I JUST NEED YOU TO KNOW, *FROM ME*, THAT THERE ARE... PEOPLE IN POWER...
PEOPLE WHO HAVE PLANS FOR *ALL* THE ELEPHANTMEN... PEOPLE WHO HAVE *ALWAYS* HAD PLANS.
AND HORN'S LITTLE *SHOOT-'EM-UP* HAS GIVEN THEM THE EXCUSE THEY NEEDED TO SET THOSE PLANS IN MOTION?
ARE WE TALKING *WITCH HUNT*, OR *FINAL SOLUTION?*
I REALLY DON'T KNOW WHAT TO EXPECT, I JUST WANT YOU TO BE READY.
I PUT IN A REQUISITION FOR YOU. I'M PUTTING MY JOB ON THE LINE, TOO.

THESE WILL BE DELIVERED TO YOUR APARTMENT, FLASK...
KEEP THEM SAFE. HOPEFULLY YOU WON'T NEED TO USE THEM.
BUT IF WE DO?
THEN YOU'LL BE ON YOUR OWN, EBONY.
YOU'RE AMONGST THE LUCKY ONES.
THERE ARE STILL TRANSGENICS OUT THERE WHOSE BODIES ARE FILLED WITH NANOBOTS AND FITTED WITH IMPERIUMITES.
YOU AND FLASK ARE FREE AGENTS IN THAT REGARD.
OKAY THEN...
ONCE MORE INTO THE FRAY...
THIS IS JUST A GUT FEELING, YOU UNDERSTAND...
BUT I THINK YOU GUYS ARE GOING TO BE IN THE FIGHT OF YOUR LIFE!

BLAM BLAM
OVER HEAD!
HOLY COW, MAN, YOU'VE GOT SOME KIND OF SIXTH SENSE!
I DO... I SENSE SHIT GOING DOWN WHEN THE HAIR IS STANDING UP ON THE BACK OF MY NECK.
BLAM BLAM
THIS IS THE LAST OF THEM, RIGHT?
YEAH... ON MY MARK...
UH, DO YOU GUYS HEAR WHAT I'M HEARING...?
THOSE ARE SOME HEAVY FOOTFALLS.
BLOOD AND SAND...

"YOU'LL COME IN FROM THE NORTH EXIT, EBONY, CLOSE OFF THEIR ESCAPE ROUTE..."
"BY THE TIME WE MEET IT'LL ALL JUST BE CLEAN UP."
WHAT A CROCK OF SHIT!
RUN!


YOU KNOW, I THINK YOUR SOURCES MAY HAVE GOT THE NUMBERS WRONG...
ISIAH! WATCH OUT!
CRUNCH
LET'S GET OUTTA HERE!

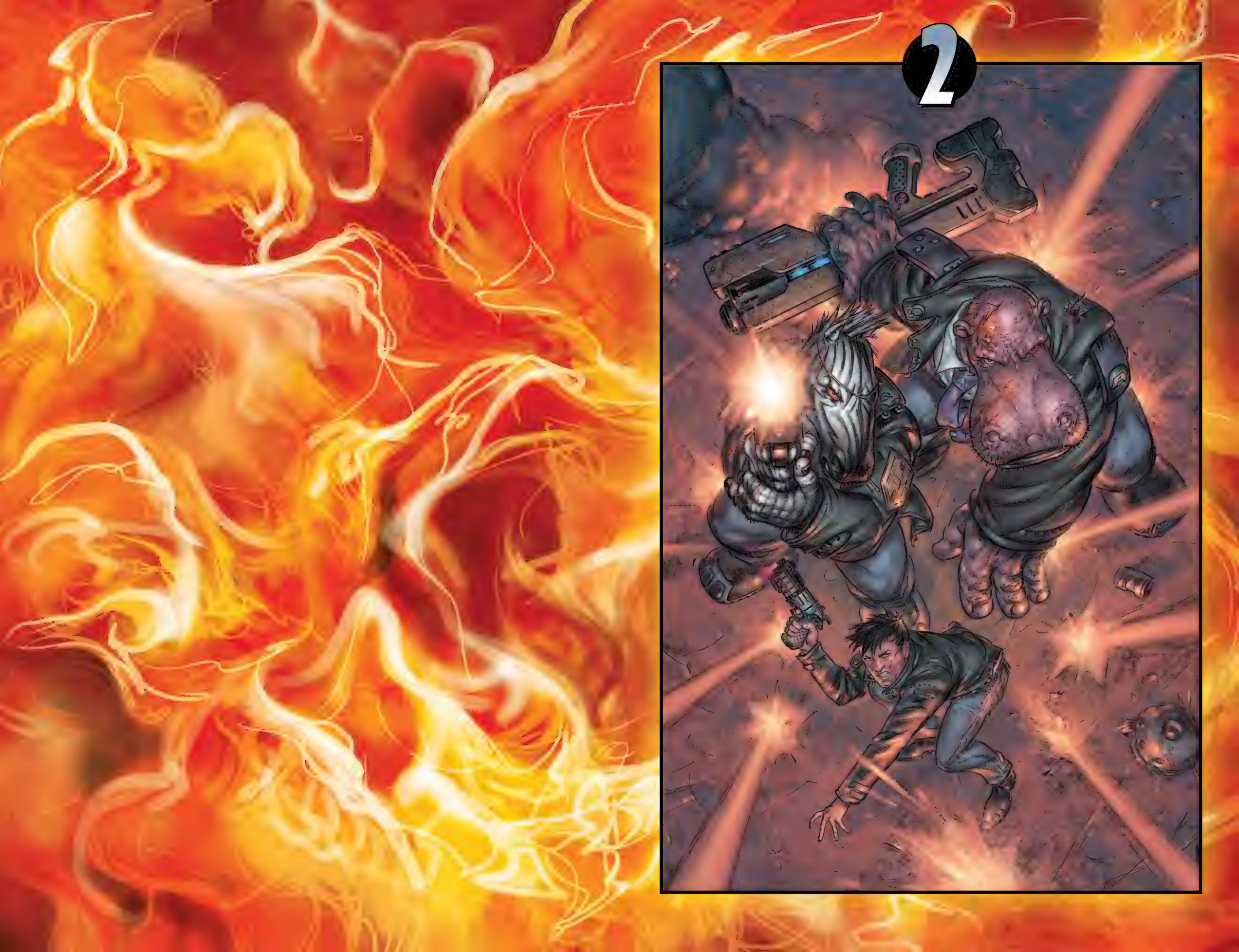
OKAY, I CAN TAKE OUT MAYBE THREE OF THESE MOTHERS...
THREE EACH AND WE'RE IN WITH A CHANCE...
IF YOU BOYS SURROUND ME, I BET I CAN PICK THE REST OFF...
ON COUNT OF THREE...
ONE... Uhh...
SH!T SNACKS...
MOTHER OF MUD...

VARRRRRRRR

VARRRRR

VARRR

To Be Continued!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LOS ANGELES • 2260 ONE WEEK AGO

ALL COMING EVIL

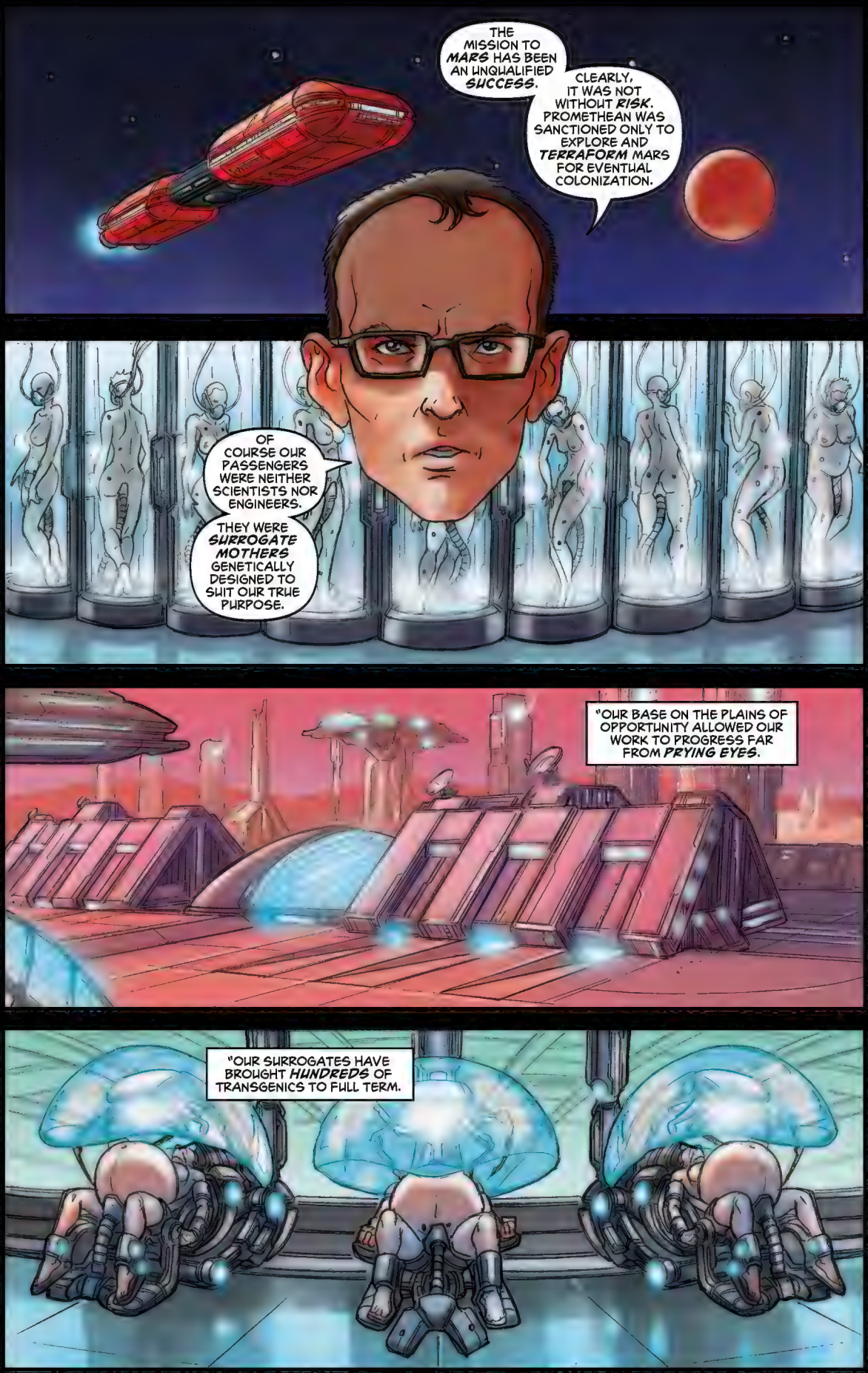
Part Two: The STILL POINT of The TURNING WORLD

Richard Starkings Words Axel Medellin Art

IT FAILED.
THE ELEPHANTMEN WERE *DEFEATED*. REHABILITATED. ALLOWED TO WALK AMONG US.
LIVING WEAPONS BUT *WEAPONS* NEVERTHELESS. DEFUSED, YOU MIGHT SAY. STOCKPILED.
KEPT ASIDE FOR A RAINY DAY.
BUT THAT WAS NEARLY TWENTY YEARS AGO.

MANY TRANSGENICS HAVE BEEN MADE INTO CELEBRITIES, TAKEN INTO THE HEARTS OF THE PUBLIC AT LARGE.
DEFUSING THEIR POTENTIAL STILL FURTHER.
WE MUST KNOCK THEM OFF THEIR PEDESTALS.
REMIND THE WORLD THAT THESE CREATURES ARE MANMADE MONSTERS.
NOT SOME KIND OF ELEVATED ETHNIC MINORITY.
IF WE ARE TO OPEN UP THE MARKET FOR OUR PRODUCT, WE NEED TO DEMONSTRATE ITS EFFECTIVENESS IN A... LIMITED ARENA.
YOU ARE SPEAKING OF THE OPERATION ON MARS.
ARE THEY READY YET?
THEY'RE READY.
MAPPO PREVAILS.

MAPPO?
NO. THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH NIKKEN'S ATTEMPTS TO ADAPT NATURE TO HIS ARROGANT WHIMS.
HIS DESIRE TO BE THOUGHT OF AS A GOD MADE HIS CREATIONS ALL TOO HUMAN.
WORSHIP REQUIRES BELIEVERS. FATHERS THAT DEMAND RESPECT, FORGET THAT NATURE IS SIMPLY MOTHER TO ALL.
IT IS NOT SURPRISING THAT MAPPO HAD TO AUGMENT THEIR TRANSGENICS WITH NANOTECHNOLOGY.
NO MATTER HOW STRONG THEY HAVE BEEN BRED, SLAVE WARRIORS ALWAYS HAVE TO BE WHIPPED.
AN ARMY CANNOT BE CONTROLLED BY FORCE.
ONLY DRIVEN FORWARD BY ITS OWN SAVAGE AND MERCILESS SURVIVOR INSTINCT.
WE MUST NOT FORGET AGATHE.
WE REMEMBER AGATHE, BUT WE ALSO REMEMBER THE BLACK DRAGONS.
AMERICA CANNOT AFFORD TO LOSE A WAR WITH CHINA.
AND IT WON'T. NOT IF THE GOVERNMENT ENGAGES PROMETHEAN'S SERVICES.
MISTER SINDEN, PLEASE DO NOT TAKE OFFENSE AT RAVEN'S COMMENTS.
ALL OF US HERE OWE A GREAT DEBT TO MAPPO IN GENERAL AND NIKKEN IN PARTICULAR.
WITHOUT THEIR WORK WE WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN ABLE TO REINITIATE THE TRANSGENICS PROGRAM.


THE MISSION TO *MARS* HAS BEEN AN UNQUALIFIED *SUCCESS*.
CLEARLY, IT WAS NOT WITHOUT *RISK*. PROMETHEAN WAS SANCTIONED ONLY TO EXPLORE AND *TERRAFORM* MARS FOR EVENTUAL COLONIZATION.
OF COURSE OUR PASSENGERS WERE NEITHER SCIENTISTS NOR ENGINEERS.
THEY WERE *SURROGATE MOTHERS* GENETICALLY DESIGNED TO SUIT OUR TRUE PURPOSE.
"OUR BASE ON THE PLAINS OF OPPORTUNITY ALLOWED OUR WORK TO PROGRESS FAR FROM *PRYING EYES*.
"OUR SURROGATES HAVE BROUGHT *HUNDREDS* OF TRANSGENICS TO FULL TERM.

"WHEN THE ALLIES SUPPRESSED AND ***CAPTURED*** MAPPO SOLDIERS IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE AFRO-SINO WAR, MAPPO'S CLEAN UP SQUAD PROVED TO BE PARTICULARY DIFFICULT TO ***SUBDUE***...

"SO EFFORTS TO REHABILITATE THEM WERE ABANDONED. EVERY LAST ONE OF THEM WAS ***EXTERMINATED***. WIPED OUT.

"THESE CREATURES... HUMAN/HYENA HYBRIDS, WERE DEEMED TOO ***SAVAGE***, TOO ***BRUTAL*** TO BE CONSIDERED WORTHY OF PRESERVATION.

"NATURALLY, THEY BECAME THE ***FOCUS*** OF OUR TRANSGENICS PROGRAM ON MARS."

THERE WE BEGAN DEVELOPING THE TECHNIQUE OF ***ENGRAM CONTROL*** CURRENTLY BEING FINESSED AT THE ***NEXGEN INSTITUTE***.

THESE ***DOG SOLDIERS*** MAY NOT BE MAN'S BEST FRIEND, BUT THEIR SIMPLE MINDS HAVE PROVEN TO BE MUCH EASIER TO INFLUENCE THAN NIKKEN'S SO-CALLED ***ELEPHANTMEN***.

ALL WE NEED NOW IS A *FIELD TEST*...
"AN ADVANCE GUARD."
DON'T BE *RIDICULOUS*, LA MANTIA. *THAT* KIND OF ACTION WOULD ONLY ENSURE AN END TO *ALL* OF PROMETHEAN'S ACTIVITIES.
IS THAT WHY YOU BROUGHT US HERE? TO CONSIDER *ACCELERATING* OUR SCHEDULE?
WE HAVE BARELY *STARTED* WORK AT *NEXGEN*. THE FIRST TEEGEES WON'T BE DELIVERED THERE FOR *WEEKS*.
GENTLEMEN, YOU MISUNDERSTAND.
ELEPHANTMEN HAVE BEEN UNDER HOUSE ARREST SINCE THE SHOOTINGS AT OBADIAH HORN'S WEDDING.
THERE IS NO *BETTER* TIME.
OUR SHIPS ARE ALREADY ON THEIR WAY.

L.A. NOW
VARRARR
WHAT IN THE NAME OF THE BLUE VASE OF GHOSTS...?
THIS IS SO NOT THE RIGHT TIME FOR AN ALIEN INVASION.
IF THAT'S AN ALIEN INVASION, MY ASS IS GRASS...

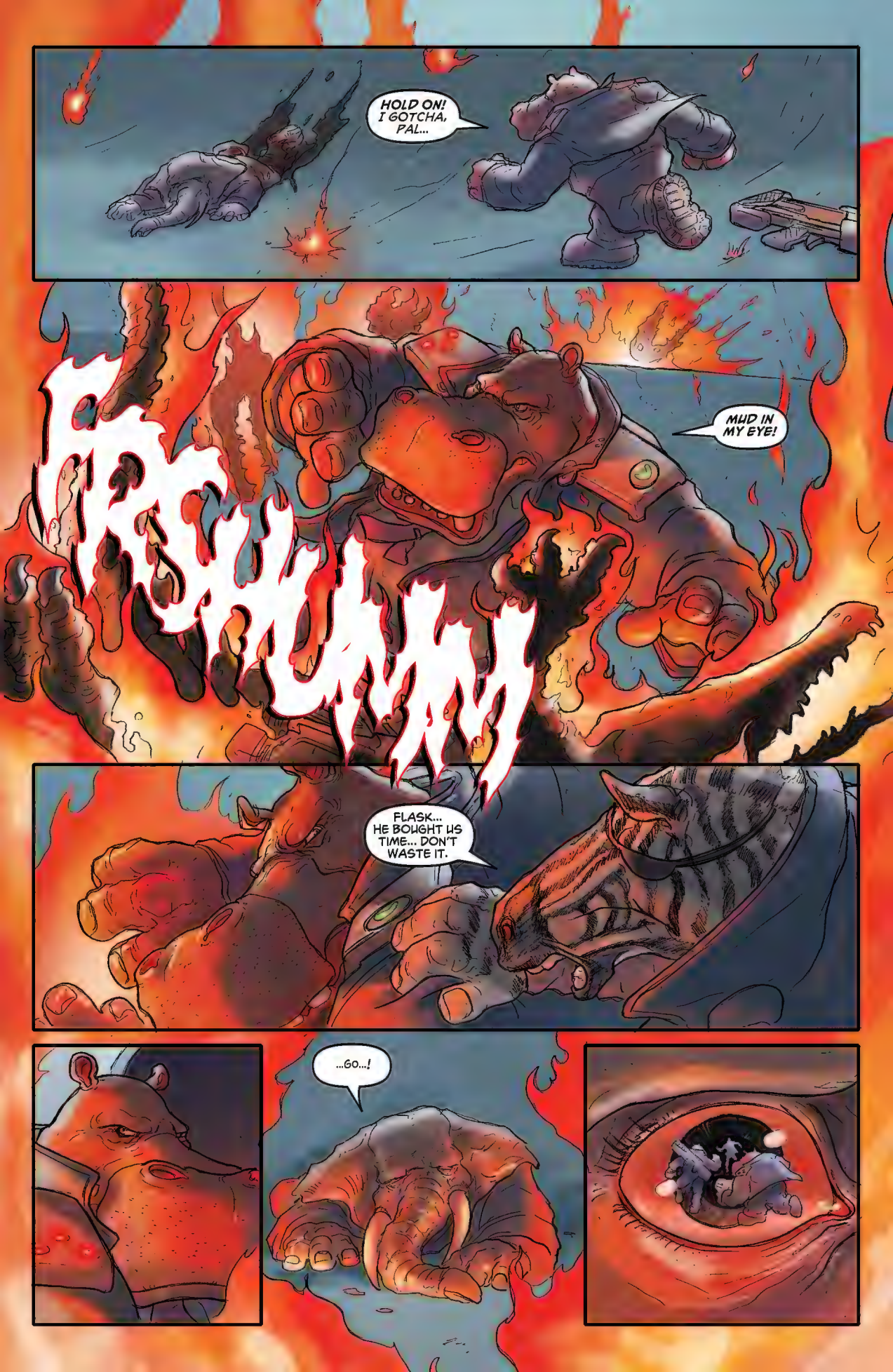
"THOSE LOOK LIKE MOPS TO ME."

CHOOM
FTAM FTAM
MOPS?!
MAPPO'S CLEANUP SQUAD. I NEVER LIKED THE CROCS, BUT THESE GUYS MAKE REPTILES LOOK CIVILIZED.
FTOOM
THAKATA
SCHK
MAN, DIDN'T THERE USED TO BE HUMANS ON THIS PLANET?
MAYBE, FARRELL, BUT YOU KNOW WHAT I FIGURED OUT?

THAKATA
MAN... OR ELEPHANTMAN...
SOMETIMES YOU GOTTA FIGHT FOR THE RIGHT JUST TO BE ALIVE.
CHOOM
THAKATA
SHRAKKT
AHH!
FTAM
MATTEUS!

MAKE YOUR MOVE, I GOTCHA COVERED...
HURRY IT, EB...
WE ARE NOT IN A GOOD PLACE... TIME TO GET THE HELL OUT OF HERE!
BLAM BLAM
FTAM
THAKATA
THAT GOES DOUBLE FOR ME.
THAKATA
HEHEH HEHEHEH HEH..

THAKATA
THAKATA
AHH!
KRR
?!
EBONY!


HOLD ON! I GOTCHA, PAL...
KRUMM
MUD IN MY EYE!
FLASK... HE BOUGHT US TIME... DON'T WASTE IT.
...GO...!

VENICE BEACH
THE INFORMATION AGENCY
HIP?
BEANS AND CHEESE, WHAT IS GOING ON HERE?
EXCUSE ME, HAVE YOU SEEN AGENT FLASK?
GIRL, YOU SHOULDN'T EVEN BE HERE.
GIRL FRIEND, THANK YOU.
Pssst!
HUNH?

MIKI, WE HAVE TO STAY OUT OF THIS...
SOMETHING BIG IS GOING DOWN...
THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE JUST ARRESTED GRUENWALD!
EBONY AND HIP HAVEN'T BEEN HERE FOR WEEKS.
DID YOU SEE THOSE SHIPS?
WHAT THE HECK IS GOING ON? WHAT CAN WE DO?
I'LL TELL YOU WHAT WE CAN'T DO, VANITY...
WE CAN'T STAY OUT OF THIS...

ARE WE GONNA BE SAFE HERE?
FARRELL, YOU CAN BE SAFE PRETTY MUCH ANYWHERE.
BUT AS LONG AS YOU ARE WITH US...
Hunh... GRANGER?
HEY, LOOK AT THAT...
HE FIXED UP MY TRENCHCOAT.
IS THAT WHAT WE'RE DOING HERE? RUNNING ERRANDS?
HEY, WAIT--
LOOKS LIKE THERE'S SOMEONE DOWN THERE...

I GUESS OUR FRIEND HAS WHAT YOU'D CALL A TAILOR-MADE SECRET BASEMENT.
THAT'S WHY WE CAN BE SAFE HERE.
FOR NOW.
THE POLICE HAVE ALREADY BEEN HERE, BUT I FIGURE THEY'LL BE BACK.
PRESENT COMPANY EXCEPTED, LIEUTENANT TRENCH.
SOMEHOW I THINK WE'RE ALL CRIMINALS NOW, JEZ.
RIGHT. THIS CAN'T END WELL.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, FLASK? YOU BOYS WERE TAKING NAMES AND KICKING ASS...
WE'RE DOWN THREE MEN, JERRY. MATEUS, ISIAH.
AND EBONY.
OH MY...
OPEN SEASON.
PLEASE. HELP YOURSELVES TO FOOD.

WE HAVE TO GO BACK. WE CAN'T JUST LEAVE EBONY BLEEDING TO DEATH.
FLASK, YOU SAW THOSE MUNTS. THE MOPS.
THE WHOLE CROC HUNT WE WERE SENT ON WAS JUST SOME KINDA ELABORATE SMOKESCREEN.
WE'RE ALL ON A DEATH SENTENCE NOW.
WHAT, YOU THINK YOU'RE THE ONES BEING HUNTED DOWN?
TRENCH IS RIGHT. IT'S ALWAYS BEEN JUST A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE THE WAR FOLLOWED US HERE.
THE INEVITABLE FINAL SOLUTION.
BUILT-IN OBSOLESCENCE.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? YOU'RE THE GOOD GUYS, RIGHT?
IF ONLY THERE WAS ALWAYS SUCH AN EASY DIVISION BETWEEN GOOD AND EVIL, FARRELL...
FOR INSTANCE, HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW ABOUT AGATHE?
To Be Continued!

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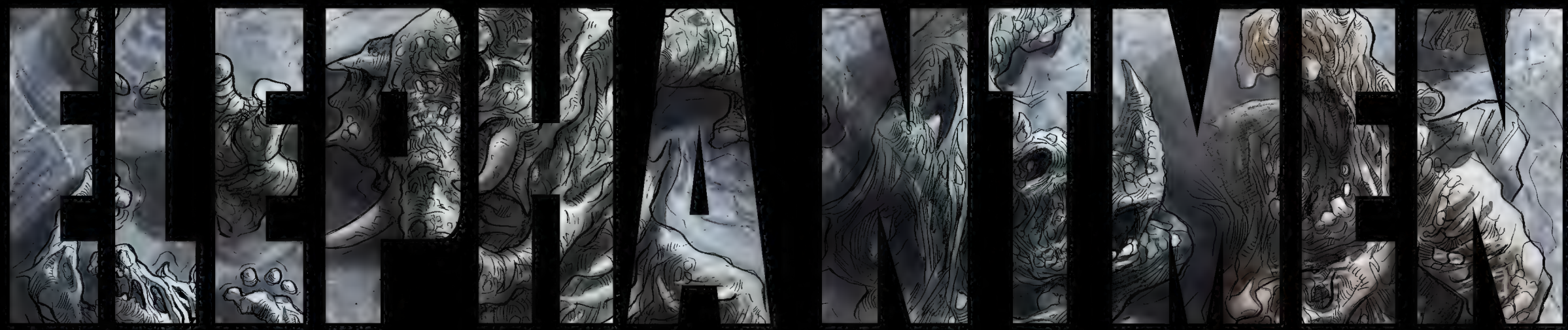
"NO ONE WINS IN A WAR."



"LEAST OF ALL THE *SOLDIERS* WHO WERE SENT TO FIGHT IT."

"THERE ARE ALWAYS SO MANY INNOCENT VICTIMS.

"SO MUCH DEATH. SO MUCH DESTRUCTION.

"SO FEW SURVIVORS.

ALL COMING EVIL

Part Three:

SURVIVORS

LYNGEN · NORWAY · 2240

"SO MUCH *PAIN.*

Richard Starkings *Words* · Axel Medellin *Art*

"EVERYONE KNOWS AGATHE SURVIVED.

"NOT EVERYONE KNOWS THE PART I PLAYED IN HER SURVIVAL.
BTAM
SPUTCH
UH!
"SHE WAS JUST A KID. ELEVEN? TWELVE YEARS OLD?

"THIS WAS MY PUNISHMENT FOR BEING INJURED ON THE FRONTLINES.
"THEY SENT ME BACK TO KEEP AN EYE ON THE MOPS, THE HYENA CLEANUP SQUAD.
DO YOU SPEAK ENGLISH?
OF COURSE I DO, PIG. AND MUCH BETTER THAN YOU.
BTAM

WELL?
AREN'T YOU GOING TO SHOOT ME TOO?
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
IS THAT YOUR THING? YOU ONLY KILL PEOPLE AFTER THEY TELL YOU THEIR NAMES?
AGATHE, MY NAME IS AGATHE.
SO FUCK YOU!
"HAD I KNOWN THAT THE NAME AGATHE WOULD HAVE BECOME SYNONYMOUS WITH THE DEATHS OF THOUSANDS OF ELEPHANTMEN, I WONDER IF I'D HAVE KILLED HER RIGHT THERE AND THEN.
"BUT I HAD GROWN TIRED OF KILLING CHILDREN.
"TIRED OF WATCHING THE HYENAS BURN LIVING CREATURES ALIVE.

"TIRED OF WAR.
"JUST LIKE A MILLION SOLDIERS BEFORE ME."
GET OUT OF HERE. HEAD FOR FRANCE.
MAPPO HAS ALREADY CLEANED UP THERE.
YOU'LL BE SAFE.
"THAT'S RIGHT, I SENT HER TO FRANCE. TO HER DESTINY.
"HOW WAS I TO KNOW WHAT SHE WAS CAPABLE OF?
"SHE WAS JUST A KID.
"SURE, I SAW HER PICK UP A GUN.

"SMART GIRL.
"BUT I DIDN'T STICK AROUND TO SEE WHAT SHE MIGHT DO WITH IT."
I KNOW THAT SHE *RAN*. I KNOW THAT SHE MADE IT TO FRANCE.
I KNOW THAT SHE *ENDED* THE WAR.
AND ALL IT COST HER WAS HER OWN LIFE.

LOS ANGELES • 2260
SO, IN OTHER WORDS, WE'RE IN THIS *CURRENT* MESS BECAUSE *YOU* DIDN'T DO YOUR *JOB* TWENTY YEARS AGO?
FARRELL, YOU'RE ALIVE BECAUSE I DIDN'T SHOOT THAT GIRL.
OKAY. THAT'S... *ANOTHER* WAY OF LOOKING AT IT.
SOME OF US WOULD LIKE TO LIVE TWENTY YEARS *MORE*, SO KEEP IT DOWN, GUYS.
THOSE *MUNTS* AREN'T LOOKING FOR HUMANS, THEY'RE LOOKING FOR *US*.
NO OFFENSE INTENDED, FARRELL...
NONE TAKEN, FLASK.

THE LONGER WE LEAVE THIS, THE LESS OF A CHANCE WE HAVE OF GETTING OUTSIDE GRANGER'S *FRONT DOOR*, LET ALONE BACK TO ***EBONY*** AT THE UNDERPASS.
SO ANYONE GOT ANY BRIGHT IDEAS?
WE SPLIT UP, YOU AND I HEAD UP ALONG THE ONE-TEN NORTH, FLASK AND JEREMIAH TAKE THE OLMOS EXPRESSWAY.
I DON'T LIKE IT, IF WE SPLIT UP, CHANCES ARE WE'LL GET OVERRUN MORE EASILY.
NOT ONLY THAT, ***I'M*** THE ONLY ONE WITH A ***MED-KIT***, AND IT'LL TAKE ALL FOUR OF US TO ***MOVE*** HIM.
HE'S GOTTA HAVE LOST A LOT OF ***BLOOD*** AND IT'S NEARLY AN ***HOUR*** SINCE WE LEFT HIM...
RONNIE, YOU REALISE THAT THERE'S ONLY A VERY *SLIM* CHANCE HE'LL BE ***ALIVE*** WHEN WE FIND HIM...?
EXCUSE ME, BOYS...?
THIS MAY NOT BE THE RIGHT TIME TO BE TALKING ABOUT ***LIFE EXPECTANCY!***
HEHEHEHE HEHEHEHE

UNNHH
SHRKKKK
SHRKKKK
SHRKKKK

PLEASE...
HELP...
AAAARH!

THAKATA THAKATA THAKATA
THAKATA THAKATA
FTAM FTAM
FALL BACK, FARRELL, THIS ISN'T YOUR FIGHT.
BLAM BLAM
ARE YOU KIDDING ME? THOSE BULLETS THEY'RE FIRING ARE WHISTLING PAST MY HEAD TOO, Y'KNOW!
YEAH, WELL, DON'T COME CRYING TO ME WHEN YOUR HEAD POPS LIKE A MELON!
I WON'T!
FTAM
FTAM FTAM
CHOOM
BLAM BLAM BLAM

BLAM BLAM BLAM
GRANGER, WE GOTTA GET CLEAR OF HERE, IS THERE A WAY OUT BACK THERE?
I SEE... A WALL AND THEN... I THINK THAT'S, Um, ANOTHER WALL!
THAKATA THAKATA
CHOOM CHOOM
HIP!
ARGH!
EHEHEEEHEHEEEHEHEEE

WOOOOOOOOO!!!
THMP
THAKATA
WHMMP
HOLY SH!T! DON'T GIVE 'EM TIME TO RECOVER!
WAY AHEAD OF YOU!!
BLAM BLAM BLAM
FTAM FTAM

SOMEONE CALL FOR A CAB?
BUT, HEY, NO BLEEDING ON THE UPHOLSTERY PLEASE!
MIKI... I CAN'T SAY I'M NOT HAPPY TO SEE YOU...
...BUT NOT HERE, NOT LIKE THIS...
HIP... YOU'RE HURT?
GRANGER, I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE GONNA SAY...
WELL, I DID JUST FIX UP THAT COAT LAST WEEK...

I'M OKAY, SWEETHEART... IT'S JUST-JUST A FLESH WOUND. BARELY A GRAZE...
THIS MIGHT BE THE ONLY TIME I'M GONNA BE GRATEFUL YOU'RE SO THICK SKINNED.
THIS IS ALL VERY NICE AN' ALL, BUT WE'RE STILL ON A CLOCK HERE...
WE'VE GOT TO FIND EBONY BEFORE HE BLEEDS TO DEATH.
EBONY? WHAT--?
BEANS AND CHEESE... GRUENWALD ARRESTED AND NOW THIS?
WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON?
GRU? THEY ARRESTED THE DIRECTOR OF THE AGENCY?

OF COURSE THEY DID. NOW WE'RE REALLY ON OUR OWN.
BUT WHY WOULD THEY DO THAT?
AND WHO ARE "THEY," VANITY? WHO'S BEHIND ALL THIS?
WHO DECIDED IT'S OPEN SEASON ON ELEPHANTMEN?
MIKI, TAKE FARRELL, GRANGER AND VANITY AND FIND EBONY.
TRENCH AND I NEED TO PAY A VISIT TO L.A.P.D H.Q...
MIKI. I DON'T KNOW WHERE YOU GOT THOSE GUNS, BUT I DON'T LIKE YOU USING THEM.
I'LL BE CAREFUL.

ABOVE THE CITY
LA MANTIA.
OBADIAH. HOW GOOD OF YOU TO MEET ME HERE.
I HAVE... PROMETHEAN HAS... A PROPOSITION FOR YOU
To Be Continued!

4

LOS ANGELES · 2260

ELEPHANTMEN

ALL COMING EVIL Part Four: DEADLIER THAN the MALE

Richard Starkings Words
Axel Medellin Art

"THE DEVASTATOR"? ARE YOU SERIOUS? DID A **FOCUS GROUP** COME UP WITH THAT FOR YOU?

RIGHT AFTER THEY DETERMINED HOW TO **SHUT DOWN** THE AUTHORITIES SO YOU COULD TURN LOS ANGELES INTO YOUR LITTLE **PLAYGROUND?**

ONCE AGAIN, **PROMETHEAN** IS THE **ONLY** AUTHORITY YOU SHOULD BE CONCERNED ABOUT RIGHT NOW.

YOUR SAD AND PATHETIC SPECIES ARE BEING **PURGED** FROM THE CITY STREETS. LOS ANGELES IS UNDER **OUR** CONTROL.

AND WHAT ABOUT YOU, **OBADIAH HORN?** WHAT KIND OF CONTROL HAVE **YOU** BEEN ABLE TO EXERT IN **YOUR** LIFE?

YOUR OWN CHILD **SNATCHED** RIGHT UNDER YOUR EYES AT YOUR **WEDDING.**

GABBATHA, AMERICA'S FAVORITE TRANSGENIC, **DEAD;** HIS BLOOD IS ON **YOUR** HANDS.

YOUR WIFE, **SAHARA,** NO LONGER SURE THAT SHE CAN TRUST YOU AT ALL.

SO LET ME **EXPLAIN** TO YOU WHAT'S GOING ON HERE...

THE WORLD *SOFT-HEARTED* GOVERNMENTS BUILT AROUND YOU IS AT AN *END*.

NO ONE *WON* THE WAR YOU FOUGHT. NOT *AFRICA*, NOT *CHINA* AND, LEAST OF ALL, *AMERICA*.

CIVIL LIBERTIES ARE ALL VERY WELL AND GOOD WHEN RESOURCES ARE *PLENTIFUL* AND *ABUNDANT*...

BUT WHEN DEMAND STARTS TO OUTSTRIP SUPPLY, THAT WHICH WAS FREELY *GIVEN* HAS TO BE ROUGHLY TAKEN *AWAY*.

GREAT DEMOCRACIES ARE ALWAYS AWARE OF THE NEED FOR EFFECTIVE *POLICE ACTION*.

"CIVILIZED SOCIETY'S DESIRE TO *'KEEP THE PEACE,'* ALSO PROVIDES A CONVENIENT DEMAND FOR *SCAPEGOATS* WHEN ITS INDOLENT MIDDLE CLASS SEEKS TO CLING TO THEIR UNSUSTAINABLE LIFESTYLES.

"WE HAVE PROVIDED THE NEW PEACEKEEPING FORCE.

"AND REMINDED THE MASSES OF THE ORIGINAL PURPOSE OF MAPPO'S TRANSGENICS PROGRAM."

"WAR *IS* PEACE.

"THE WHITE HOUSE IS WATCHING LOS ANGELES *VERY* CAREFULLY.

"CHINA IS WATCHING OUR LITTLE DEMONSTRATION TOO.

"THIS HAS ALWAYS BEEN ABOUT JUST ONE THING. IT HAS BEEN A BATTLE OVER DIMINISHING RESOURCES. IT IS A MATTER OF THE SURVIVAL OF THE *FITTEST*.

"THERE IS RESISTANCE, OF COURSE.

"BUT THE INFORMATION AGENCY, THE *L.A.P.D.*...

"ALL THEIR ACTIONS HAVE BEEN DICTATED AND GUIDED BY PROMETHEAN.

"THEY HAVE UNWITTINGLY MADE THEMSELVES *OUTLAWS*.

"BUT WE HAVE SOMETHING *ELSE* IN MIND FOR YOU, OBADIAH.

"YOU WILL *LEAD* OUR *NEW ARMY* OF TRANSGENICS!

"DESPITE ALL THAT HAS TRANSPIRED, YOU AND SAHARA STILL COMMAND THE *SYMPATHY* OF THE PUBLIC AT LARGE."

AND YOU INTEND TO *CAPITALIZE* ON THAT?

YOU ARE TELLING ME THAT -- TO REMAIN *FREE* -- YOU WANT ME TO BECOME YOUR *SLAVE?*

"DO YOU THINK YOU ARE FREE NOW?
OBADIAH... WHERE IS IT?
MY WHITE ELEPHANT?
"YOU AND YOUR KIND HAVE BEEN UNDER HOUSE ARREST SINCE YOUR DISASTROUS WEDDING.
"YOU ARE A PRISONER I THINK, OF YOUR OWN ACTIONS.
YOUR WHAT?
GABBATHA?
MY LOVE...
DON'T TOUCH ME!
FIND IT!
FIND MY WHITE ELEPHANT!
"PROMETHEAN CAN GIVE YOU YOUR LIFE BACK.
HOW MUCH DO YOU ENJOY LIFE IN YOUR IVORY TOWERS, ANYWAY OBADIAH?
A LEOPARD CANNOT CHANGE ITS SPOTS,

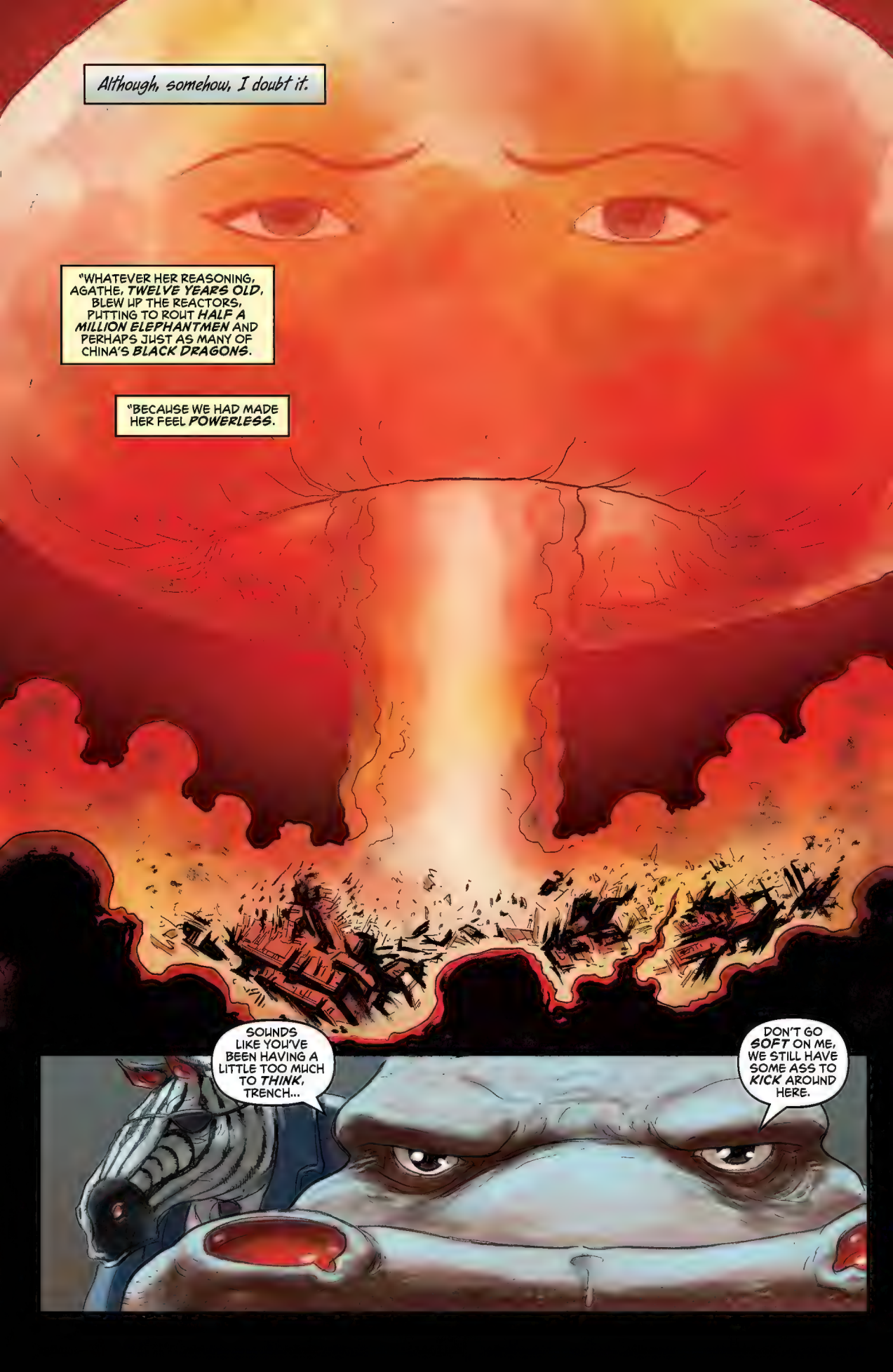
CENTRAL HEADQUARTERS. THIS IS WHERE HOMSI HAS GRUENWALD LOCKED UP.
AND WE'RE GOING TO WALK RIGHT UP TO THE FRONT DOOR AND WALK IN?
I MEAN, I LIKE THAT APPROACH MYSELF...
BUT THAT WAY, I USUALLY HAVE TA HIT A BUNCH OF PEOPLE...
LAPD
YEAH, THAT WOULD BE A DEAD GIVEAWAY.
METRO
BUT THERE ARE OTHER WAYS OF GETTING IN AND OUT OF H.Q.
HOMSI AND I HAVE NEVER SEEN EYE-TO-EYE, BUT MY GUT TELLS ME THAT THE ORDER TO ARREST GRUENWALD WASN'T HIS CALL.
PROMETHEAN. THEY'VE GOT THEIR FINGERS IN EVERYTHING.
MAPPO, PROMETHEAN; THEY'D BOTH SET THE WORLD TO BURN IF THEY KNEW IT WOULD TURN THEM A PROFIT.
NO ONE COULD EVER CALL ME A TERRORIST SYMPATHISER, BUT I HAVE TO ADMIT...
YVETTE? AGATHE...

WHEN AGATHE SET THE WORLD ON FIRE, SHE DIDN'T DO IT BECAUSE THERE WAS *MONEY* IN IT.
"THINK ABOUT IT. SHE WAS TWELVE YEARS OLD.
"HITTING LIVE *TARGETS* BEFORE SHE'D EVEN HIT *PUBERTY*.
NOT BECAUSE SHE *WANTED* TO... BECAUSE SHE *HAD* TO. JUST TO STAY *ALIVE*.
BECAUSE THE FORCES THAT WERE *DEFENDING* HER COUNTRY HAD BEEN *CRIPPLED* OR *DESTROYED* BY MILITARY MIGHT *UNIMAGINABLY* SUPERIOR.
"WHAT *OPTIONS* DO YOU HAVE IN THAT POSITION?
"DIALOGUE?
"SURRENDER?
"THE *ELEPHANTMEN* BROOKED NO *SURRENDER*.
"WE GAVE NO *QUARTER*.
"THE FORCES OF *RESISTANCE* RANGED AGAINST US HAD FEW OPTIONS.
"KILL OR BE KILLED.

"SO THEY TOOK HER IN. MADE HER AWARE OF THEIR PLANS... THEIR *FINAL SOLUTION*.
"THEY HAD DETERMINED TO BLOW UP THE NUCLEAR POWER PLANT IN *DAMPIERRE*.
"WHO KNOWS IF, *AS A GROUP*, THEY'D HAVE GONE AHEAD WITH IT?
"IRONICALLY, THE INTERVENTION OF ONE OF OUR OWN PRACTICALLY ENSURED THE PLANT WAS GONNA BLOW.

"THEY FOUND A LETTER, BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN WRITTEN BY AGATHE."
You have taken everything from me.
You killed my mother.
You killed my brothers.
You burned my house, the home I grew up in.
I don't know who you are, I only know the MONSTERS you send to do your dirty work.
I only know blood and death and fear and emptiness.
I needed family, but you took them from me.
I needed friends, a home, somewhere to belong.
You took those things from me too.

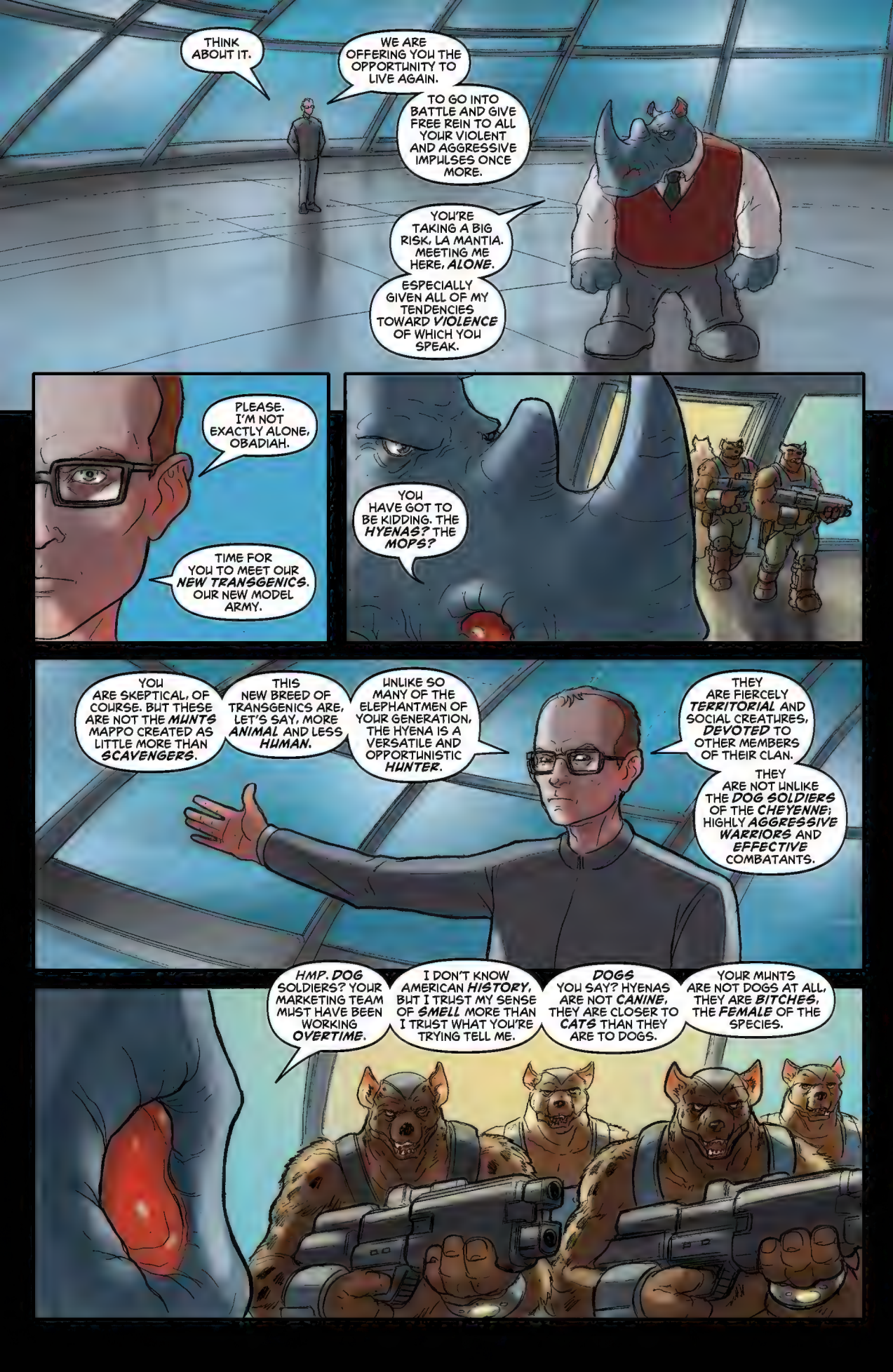
Well, I have decided that, if I can't have the things that I want...
You can't have them either.
ARMED
So enjoy your arable land, your OIL and MINERAL rights... enjoy ALL the fruits of your endeavours, whoever you are...
Although, I dare say you might find them a little SPOILED.
Maybe in a few hundred years people will be able to live here again...
Maybe then, all the Monsters will be gone.


Although, somehow, I doubt it.
"WHATEVER HER REASONING, AGATHE, TWELVE YEARS OLD, BLEW UP THE REACTORS, PUTTING TO ROUT HALF A MILLION ELEPHANTMEN AND PERHAPS JUST AS MANY OF CHINA'S BLACK DRAGONS.
"BECAUSE WE HAD MADE HER FEEL POWERLESS.
SOUNDS LIKE YOU'VE BEEN HAVING A LITTLE TOO MUCH TO THINK, TRENCH...
DON'T GO SOFT ON ME, WE STILL HAVE SOME ASS TO KICK AROUND HERE.

THAT'S THE SPOT... TAKE US DOWN, MIKI...
LOOKS LIKE THE MOPS HAVE SWEPT THROUGH AND MOVED ON...
MAYBE, FARRELL, BUT MIKI'S CAB STICKS OUT LIKE A SORE THUMB WITH THE UNDERPASS OFF LIMITS...
Y'MEAN, IT BEING BRIGHT YELLOW, AN' ALL?
GOTCHA, GRANGER. WE BETTER MAKE THIS AS QUICK AS WE CAN.
WE HAD TO LEAVE EBONY AT THE BOTTOM OF THE GUTTER HERE...
CRAP SNACKS...
LOOKS LIKE SOMEONE BEAT US TO HIM.

HIP...?
IS THAT YOU? YOU CAME BACK FOR ME...
I GOTTA TELL YA SOMETHIN'... MY LEGS... THEY HUER REAL BAD, THEY...
OH MY GOD... NO...

YOU WERE BLEEDING TO DEATH. THERE WAS NO CHOICE. I'M SORRY.
YOU-YOU CUT OFF MY LEGS...?
NO. I BIT THEM OFF.
YOU WERE OUT. I CAUTERIZED THE STUMPS. WE STILL GOTTA GET YOU TO A DOCTOR.
ME TOO. GOT SHOT IN THE BACK OF THE HEAD.
HAVETA SAY THOUGH, I BEEN ABLE TO THINK A LOT CLEARER!
AH


THINK ABOUT IT.
WE ARE OFFERING YOU THE OPPORTUNITY TO LIVE AGAIN.
TO GO INTO BATTLE AND GIVE FREE REIN TO ALL YOUR VIOLENT AND AGGRESSIVE IMPULSES ONCE MORE.
YOU'RE TAKING A BIG RISK, LA MANTIA. MEETING ME HERE, ALONE.
ESPECIALLY GIVEN ALL OF MY TENDENCIES TOWARD VIOLENCE OF WHICH YOU SPEAK.
PLEASE. I'M NOT EXACTLY ALONE, OBADIAH.
TIME FOR YOU TO MEET OUR NEW TRANSGENICS. OUR NEW MODEL ARMY.
YOU HAVE GOT TO BE KIDDING. THE HYENAS? THE MOPS?
YOU ARE SKEPTICAL, OF COURSE. BUT THESE ARE NOT THE MUNTS MAPPO CREATED AS LITTLE MORE THAN SCAVENGERS.
THIS NEW BREED OF TRANSGENICS ARE, LET'S SAY, MORE ANIMAL AND LESS HUMAN.
UNLIKE SO MANY OF THE ELEPHANTMEN OF YOUR GENERATION, THE HYENA IS A VERSATILE AND OPPORTUNISTIC HUNTER.
THEY ARE FIERCELY TERRITORIAL AND SOCIAL CREATURES, DEVOTED TO OTHER MEMBERS OF THEIR CLAN.
THEY ARE NOT UNLIKE THE DOG SOLDIERS OF THE CHEYENNE; HIGHLY AGGRESSIVE WARRIORS AND EFFECTIVE COMBATANTS.
HMP. DOG SOLDIERS? YOUR MARKETING TEAM MUST HAVE BEEN WORKING OVERTIME.
I DON'T KNOW AMERICAN HISTORY, BUT I TRUST MY SENSE OF SMELL MORE THAN I TRUST WHAT YOU'RE TRYING TELL ME.
DOGS YOU SAY? HYENAS ARE NOT CANINE, THEY ARE CLOSER TO CATS THAN THEY ARE TO DOGS.
YOUR MUNTS ARE NOT DOGS AT ALL, THEY ARE BITCHES, THE FEMALE OF THE SPECIES.

NO DOUBT YOUR GENETICISTS, WHEN SEEKING TO MANUFACTURE THE MOST "EFFECTIVE COMBATANTS," RECOGNIZED THAT THE FEMALE HYENA WAS MORE VIRILE AND DOMINEERING THAN THE MALE.
HYENA CUBS, WHEN THEY EMERGE FROM THE WOMB, ARE SO WIRED FOR A FIGHT THAT THEY OFTEN ATTACK ONE ANOTHER EVEN BEFORE THEY SUCKLE.
THE SPOTTED VARIETY IS THE ONLY HYENA SPECIES IN WHICH THE FEMALE HAS VIRILIZED GENITALS.
THE FEMALE, PUMPED WITH GREATER TESTOSTERONE LEVELS THAN THE MALE, IS CONSIDERED MORE SAVAGE, MORE BRUTAL AND MORE PRIMAL.
YES, IT'S TRUE, OUR NEW TRANSGENICS ARE ADAPTED FROM FEMALE GENES.
BUT HOW DO YOU KNOW ALL THIS?
OF WHAT RELEVANCE IS IT--
I HAVE AN EXCEPTIONAL SENSE OF SMELL, MISTER LA MANTIA, AS DO ALL RHINOS.
YOU SHOULD ALSO KNOW THAT THE HYENA IS A NATURAL ENEMY OF THE RHINO, AND I AM METICULOUS WHEN IT COMES TO KNOWING MY ENEMIES.
I WONDER IF YOU TRULY KNOW THE NATURE OF THE BEASTS YOU HAVE NOW IN YOUR EMPLOY.
IF YOU ARE CONCERNED THAT THE NEW TRANSGENICS MIGHT STRAY FROM THEIR DIRECTIVES, PLEASE BE ASSURED...

...EACH AND EVERY ONE OF OUR SOLDIERS HAS A SMALL EXPLOSIVE PLACED UNDER THEIR CEREBELLUM. SHOULD THEIR SERVICES NO LONGER BE REQUIRED, THEY CAN BE ELIMINATED AT THE TOUCH OF A BUTTON.
IT'S A LITTLE TRICK WE PICKED UP FROM OUR CHINESE COUNTERPARTS.
BUILT-IN OBSOLESCENCE! BRILLIANT. THAT IS VERY REASSURING.
OF COURSE, HUMAN BEINGS HAVE A SOMEWHAT SIMILAR DESIGN FEATURE. WHICH MAKES THEM EVEN MORE VULNERABLE...
PRAY TELL.
SMASH
AND HERE'S SOMETHING ELSE I KNOW ABOUT HYENAS. YES, THEY ARE PREDATORS FIRST, SCAVENGERS SECOND.
BUT GIVEN THE CHOICE BETWEEN MAKING A FRESH KILL AND FEASTING ON DEAD MEAT...
...HYENAS WILL READILY SCAVENGE FROM HUMAN CORPSES.
ESPECIALLY WHEN THE BLOOD IS STILL WARM.

RRRRR
SNFFF
SNFF
I THOUGHT AS MUCH.
A LEOPARD CANNOT CHANGE ITS SPOTS,
RRRRR
RARRRR
RNCH

OKAY, HERE WE GO...
THE ROOF?
THEY'RE KEEPING GRU ON *THE ROOF?*
DON'T BE RIDICULOUS, FLASK. BUT IF WE WANT TO GET INSIDE TO FREE HIM, I'M GONNA HAVETA DISABLE THE L.A.P. DROIDS.
I CAN DO THAT FROM HERE.
WE WON'T HAVE MUCH TIME, THOUGH.
PERHAPS YOU'LL HAVE NO TIME *AT ALL*, LIEUTENANT.
NICE OF THE TWO OF YOU TO SAVE ME THE TROUBLE OF HUNTING YOU DOWN AND BRINGING YOU IN.
To Be Concluded!

5
WITH A NOD TO BOLLAND.

ELEPHANTMEN

It is a frightening thought that man also has a shadow side to him, consisting not just of little weaknesses, and foibles, but of a positively demonic dynamism.

The individual seldom knows anything of this; to him, as an individual, it is incredible that he should ever in any circumstances go beyond himself.

But let these harmless creatures form a mass, and there emerges a raging monster; and each individual is only one tiny cell in the monster's body, so that for better or worse he must accompany it on its bloody rampages and even assist it to the utmost.

Having a dark suspicion of these grim possibilities, man turns a blind eye to the shadow-side of human nature. Blindly he strives against the salutary dogma of original sin, which is yet so prodigiously true. Yes, he even hesitates to admit the conflict of which he is so painfully aware.

C.G.Jung

"MARS. OF COURSE. THE BRINGER OF WAR.

"PROMETHEAN HAD US BELIEVE OUR MISSION THERE WAS TO INVESTIGATE NEW POWER SOURCES... TO HELP ESTABLISH A TERRAFORMING INSTALLATION.

"THEY PLAYED US FOR FOOLS.

ALL COMING EVIL Part Five: MONGREL HEART

Richard Starkings Words
Axel Medellin Art

"AND NOW THEIR BIRDS HAVE COME HOME TO *ROOST*.
"THEY MADE JUST *ONE* MISTAKE.
"THEY ASSUMED I WOULD FALL IN LINE. *ACCEPT* PROMETHEAN'S DESIGNS.
"*LEAD* THEIR NEW ARMY OF *MUNTS*."
LOS ANGELES · 2260
THEY FORGOT *WHO I AM*.
THEY FORGOT WHAT *MADE* ME.
AND THEY FORGOT ONE OTHER IMPORTANT FACT.

THIS IS MY CITY!
YOU DO NOT BRING THE WAR TO OBADIAH HORN!
OBADIAH HORN BRINGS THE WAR TO YOU!

THE HRG UNDERPASS
SH!T ON A STICK-- EBONY?
YOU -- WITH THE TEETH AND THE DRY SKIN -- GET AWAY FROM HIM RIGHT NOW OR YOU'RE A HANDBAG!
FARRELL! GRANGER!
NO, WAIT! FARRELL, HE'S ONE--ONE OF THE GOOD GUYS!
EB, MAYBE YOU'RE NOT THINKING STRAIGHT, YOU'VE LOST A LOT OF BLOOD, NOT TO MENTION... WELL...
I HATE TO BE THE ONE TO BREAK THIS TO YOU...
BEANS AND CHEESE, EBONY... WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR LEGS?!

WHY IS THIS REPTILE STILL ALIVE?
VANITY! MIKI... NO... PLEASE... KROC HERE HAS KEPT ME ALIVE...
IS THAT A FACT? IS THAT CROC WITH A C, OR KROK WITH A K?
BITE ME, FLESH HEAD.
ONE OF YOU GUYS MUST HAVE TAKEN OUT HIS IMPERIUMITE IN THE SKIRMISH.
HE'S PROBABLY THINKING MORE CLEARLY THAN I AM...
IS THIS A PRIVATE PARTY OR CAN ANYONE JOIN IN...?
I THINK TRENCH HERE BROUGHT CORN NUTS.
HIP. THANK HEAVEN.

MISTER PURCHASE.
OBADIAH.
OBADIAH.
OBADIAH.
YOU AND YOUR FELLOW SYNTHETES WERE PRESENTED TO ME AS AIDES BY *LA MANTIA* HIMSELF AFTER OUR MYSTERIOUS MISSION TO MARS TEN YEARS AGO.
PROMETHEAN WERE *FOOLS* TO ASSUME I WOULD TAKE THEIR GIFTS AT FACE VALUE.
I THINK YOU WILL SOON UNDERSTAND WHY I BROUGHT *THREE* OF YOU HERE.

THERE. MORE OF YOUR KIND. MULTIPLE PURCHASES, IF YOU WILL.
THIS IS THE FLAGSHIP. THE CENTER OF PROMETHEAN'S OPERATION. WE ARE HERE TO DESTROY IT.
FORGIVE ME, BUT YOUR COUNTERPARTS DOWN THERE...
KILL THEM.
ZRRPP
ZRRPP

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, WE HAVE A MOMENTOUS TASK AHEAD OF US, LET'S MOVE QUICKLY...
HOMSI?
THIS NEVER HAPPENED, FARRELL. I WAS NEVER HERE.
PROMETHEAN'S OFFICES ARE NOT RESPONDING TO CALLS FOR THEM TO END THE VIOLENCE WROUGHT BY THEIR SOLDIERS.
IT'S GOING TO BE UP TO US TO STOP THEM.
GRUENWALD! BOY, AM I PLEASED TO SEE YOU.
WELL, TAKE A GOOD LOOK, I WANT YOU GIRLS OUT OF HERE... THIS IS GOING TO GET WAY TOO DANGEROUS...
YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING ME, AFTER ALL WE'VE BEEN THROUGH?
YOU'RE SENDING US HOME TO HIDE BEHIND THE SOFA?
MIKI, PLEASE, COME WITH ME AND VANITY... HIP IS RIGHT... WE WANT YOU SAFE.
THEY ARE WAR VETERANS, YOU ARE A CAB DRIVER.
AND I'M SUPPOSED TO TRUST THE L.A.P.D? DIDN'T THEY JUST SHUT DOWN THE AGENCY?

WE DID. BUT ONLY BECAUSE I WAS MORE COMFORTABLE HAVING AGENCY DIRECTOR GRUENWALD UNDER MY WATCHFUL EYE...
RATHER THAN IN THE HANDS OF ONE OF THOSE MEGALOMANIACS AT PROMETHEAN.
WE WILL KEEP YOU SAFE...
...BUT I REALLY DON'T THINK YOU'RE LICENSED TO CARRY THOSE WEAPONS.
OH!
SUBJECT NEUTRALIZED.
A WAR ZONE IS NO PLACE FOR CIVILIANS. HANK, I EXPECT YOU TO DO YOUR BEST TO ENSURE MINIMAL COLLATERAL DAMAGE. I'LL EVACUATE AS MANY PEOPLE AS POSSIBLE.
HEY, I'M NOT A CIVILIAN, I'M AN AGENT...
A JUNIOR AGENT.
THANK YOU, COMMISSIONER HOMSI. I CAN'T MAKE ANY PROMISES; NO ONE CAN FIGHT A WAR IN THE MIDDLE OF A CITY WITHOUT THERE BEING CASUALTIES.
BUT AS FAR AS I AM CONCERNED, PROMETHEAN IS A HOSTILE OCCUPYING FORCE THAT MUST BE TERMINATED WITH EXTREME PREJUDICE.
EVERY MAN AND ELEPHANTMAN WITH AGENCY CONNECTIONS HAS BEEN CONTACTED. I TRUST I CAN ALSO DEPEND ON EVERYONE HERE?
SAME CRAP. DIFFERENT DAY. IT BRINGS ME NO PLEASURE TO BE AT ODDS WITH OTHER TRANSGENICS, BUT SOMEONE'S GOTTA KICK THEIR HAIRY BUTTS.
NO ONE LIKES THOSE UGLY MOTHERS. JUST SHOW US WHERE THEY'RE AT.
WHAT THE HORSE SAID.

NOTHING PERSONAL.
ZRRPP
ZRRPP
ON THE CONTRARY, MISTER PURCHASE. THIS IS *VERY PERSONAL INDEED.*
LA MANTIA AND HIS CRONIES WANT ANOTHER BATCH OF *SLAVE SOLDIERS* TO EXPLOIT AND SELL.
I FIND THIS INSULTING AS A TRANSGENIC *AND* AS A BUSINESSMAN. I WILL NOT LET IT STAND.

TAP INTO THEIR SYSTEMS. FIND THE FAILSAFE OF WHICH LA MANTIA SPOKE.
OBADIAH, HAVE YOU SERIOUSLY CONSIDERED EVERY POSSIBILITY HERE?
PROMETHEAN HAS CREATED AN ARMY OF TRANSGENICS; AN ARMY THAT COULD BE YOURS TO COMMAND...
ZRRPP
WE COULD DESTROY THESE CREATURES, OR YOU COULD ENGAGE THEIR ALLEGIANCE...
AMERICA WOULD READILY FALL UNDER YOUR CONTROL...
IT IS AN INTRIGUING CONJECTURE...
MAN THE SLAVE, HIS CREATIONS THE MASTERS.
THE IRONY IS APPEALING.
I SHOULD HAVE KEPT LA MANTIA ALIVE SO THAT HE MIGHT WITNESS HIS OWN SCHEMES TURNED AGAINST HIM...

"MANKIND WOULDN'T STAND A CHANCE."

LISTEN UP!

BY RECENT AGENCY ESTIMATES WE'RE PROBABLY *OUTNUMBERED*.

I REALLY CAN'T SAY MUCH FOR OUR CHANCES, BUT WHAT WE *LACK* IN NUMBERS WE CAN MAKE UP FOR IN *MOTIVATION*.

PROBABLY NOT THE TIME FOR ME TO REMEMBER I LEFT THE *GRILL* ON.

WE HAVE TO HIT THEM *FAST* AND HIT THEM *HARD*. MOPS ARE *FEROCIOUS* BUT NOT TOO SMART.

JUST POINT ME AT THOSE *JOKERS* AND WE'LL SEE IF THEY STILL FIND SOMETHING TO *LAUGH* ABOUT.

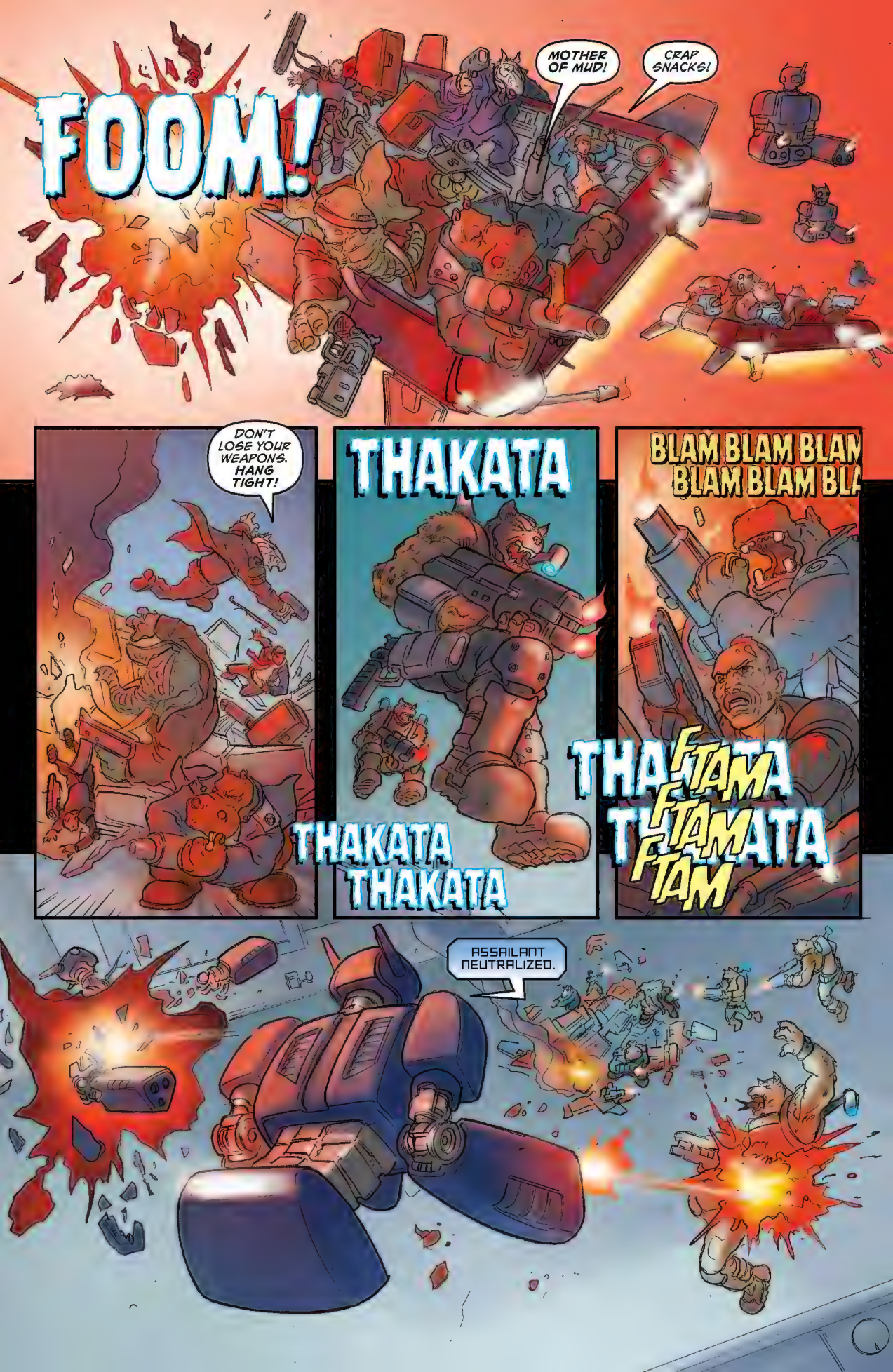
JUST DO YOUR BEST AND IF WE COME OUT THE OTHER SIDE, I'LL STAND BY YOU.

PROMETHEAN HAVE BEEN PULLING MY STRINGS FOR TOO LONG FOR ME TO CARE WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN NEXT.

WE GOT YER BACK, GRU. ALL THESE CORPORATE *MUTTS* HAVE MADE A BIG MISTAKE MESSIN' WITH US...

CONCENTRATE ON THE MUTTS ON THE GROUND...
THE SHIPS ARE MERELY TRANSPORTS. THEY SEEM TO HAVE NO FIRE POWER...
THESE HYENA HYBRIDS ARE *HEAVILY ARMED*, BUT THEY *WON'T* BE EXPECTING US...
WITH ANY LUCK, *THEY WON'T KNOW WHAT'S HIT 'EM!*

FARRELL, I'M SORRY I DRAGGED YOU INTO ALL THIS... BUT I'M HAPPY TO HAVE YOU BY MY SIDE.
FLASK, DO YOU ALWAYS GET MUSHY WHEN THE BULLETS ARE FLYING, OR DO YOU JUST HAVE A SOFT SPOT FOR PRIVATE EYES WITH BIG GUNS?
YOU'RE BREAKING MY HEART ALREADY, AND YOU DIDN'T EVEN BUY ME A DRINK FIRST.
BLAM BLAM BLAM BLAM BLAM BLAM
SPUTCH
SPUTCH
FTOOM FTOOM
SPUTCH
KEEP AT THEM!
THEY'RE OFF GUARD! EASY TARGETS!
WE'RE ON IT. THIS IS NOT OUR FIRST RODEO.
FTAM FTAM FTAM
FTAM FTAM
HEHEH HEHEHEH HEH..
BLAM BLAM


FOOM!
MOTHER OF MUD!
CRAP SNACKS!
DON'T LOSE YOUR WEAPONS. HANG TIGHT!
THAKATA
THAKATA THAKATA
BLAM BLAM BLAM
BLAM BLAM BLA
THAFTAMA
FTAMATA
FTAM
ASSAILANT NEUTRALIZED.

IT SADDENS ME HOW QUICKLY THIS SHIT COMES BACK TO ME.
ONE DAY YOU WIN A BATTLE, THE NEXT DAY YOU LOSE.
AS IF ALL THAT MATTERS IS WHICH WAY THE WIND IS BLOWING.
STAY FROSTY, FLASK... THESE MUTTS HAVEN'T GOT THE BEST OF US YET...
BLAM BLAM BLAM BLAM BLAM BLAM BLAM BLAM
SPUTCH SPUTCH SPUTCH
MUTTS... THAT'S RIGHT, THEY'RE JUST MUNTS LIKE US...
JUST SOLDIERS SENT INTO COMBAT... FOR WHAT...?
FTAM FTAM—
SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST, HIP... NOW SILENCE THAT MONGREL HEART OF YOURS AND KEEP FIGHTING!
BLAM BLAM

NO, MISTER PURCHASE. I KNOW ONLY TOO WELL THAT THE LOYALTY OF A MISFIT LIKE MYSELF CANNOT BE WON SO EASILY.
THEY ARE MUNTS. ANIMALS, YES, BUT OPPRESSION IS AN ALL TOO HUMAN QUALITY.
I DID NOT COME HERE TO COMMAND AN ARMY OF SLAVES.
NEITHER DO I WISH TO BE A SLAVE TO POWER.
ONLY ONE THING IS IMPORTANT TO ME.
THE LOVE AND SUPPORT OF SAHARA.
LOVE THAT I HAVE LOST. LOVE THAT I INTEND TO REGAIN.
FOR WHAT DO I NEED AN ARMY WHEN I HAVE THE LOVE OF MY BRIDE?
KILL THEM. DESTROY THEM ALL.
UNDERSTOOD. JUST ONE MORE SECOND...
IT IS DONE.

THAKATA
CHOOM
SPUTCH
THAKATA
THERE'S TOO MANY OF THEM, SAY YOUR PRAYERS, MY FRIENDS...
IT'S NOT OVER YET, JEB...
CHOOM
CHOOM
THAKATA
THAKATA
SPUTCH
HEHEH HEHEHEH HEHHEHEH HEHEHEH HEH...
SHUP
SHUP
SHUP
SHUP
SHUP

WATCH OUT! IF THOSE MOPS FALL ON YOU, THEY COULD STILL KILL YOU!
SHUP
WHAT THE HELL JUST HAPPENED?
LOOKS LIKE PROMETHEAN JUST PULLED THE PLUG ON THIS EXERCISE...
RIGHT WHEN THEY HAD US BY THE SHORT AND CURLIES...
EXPLOSIVES. BURIED IN THE BACK OF THE SKULL. THAT'S A DRASTIC WAY TO END AN INVESTMENT.
EACH ONE OF THESE MUTTS MUST HAVE COST THEM TEN, TWENTY MILLION EACH.
VARRRRRRRA
HOLY SHIT. LOOKS LIKE SOMEONE LEFT THE HANDBRAKE OFF THAT THING.
YEAH AREN'T YOUR OFFICES DOWN HERE? OFF BROADWAY?

WE MUST LEAVE. LET THIS VESSEL BE A FITTING *COFFIN* FOR LA MANTIA AND HIS CRONIES.
VARRA
I'M SURE THE CITY WILL WASTE NO TIME AT ALL SUING PROMETHEAN FOR DAMAGES.
IN FACT I MAY *SUGGEST* IT AT THE NEXT COUNCIL MEETING.

THIS IS A PYRRHIC VICTORY IF WE CAN EVEN CALL IT A VICTORY.
I'D LIKE TO KNOW WHO MADE THE DECISION TO MAKE THE AGENCY AND THE L.A.P.D SUBJECT TO THE WHIMS OF A BUNCH OF CORPORATE SUITS LOOKING TO DUST OFF MAPPO'S REJECTS.
I DID NOT DRAG MY ASS BACK FROM AFRICA TO HAVE THE WAR FOLLOW ME HERE.
THAT GOES DOUBLE FOR ME.
DIDN'T ENOUGH ELEPHANTMEN DIE ALREADY?

THE EYE OF THE NEEDLE
WELL, THIS WAS A LITTLE UNFORTUNATE.
ONE WEEK LATER

LA MANTIA WAS *PRECOCIOUS*. BRINGING OUR DOG SOLDIERS TO A *CIVIL* ARENA WAS A COSTLY MISTAKE.
THE SENATE IS SHUTTING *PROMETHEAN* DOWN.
OF COURSE, THEY KNOW NOTHING OF THE *NEXGEN* OPERATION. OUR WORK CAN CONTINUE.
RAVEN, WHERE WILL THE *MONEY* COME FROM, IF NOT FROM THE MILITARY/INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX?
MCKERN, THERE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN INVESTORS WHO WOULD BE *HAPPY* TO SEE US FORGE AHEAD WITH OUR PROGRAM.
THEY ARE PREPARED TO BE *EXTRAORDINARILY* GENEROUS.
OF COURSE, THEY WILL WANT TO SEE ONE *VERY PARTICULAR* ADDITION TO OUR TEAM...
VERY WELL *SINDEN*.
GET NIKKEN.

ELEPHANTMEN!
BLACK WHITE & RED
TS 2010

When the night comes, she brings a light wind to take me away to all the Forbidden places.
TS '14
DEDICATED TO:
PHILIP K DICK
BLADE RUNNER

BROUGHT TO YOU BY:
RICHARD STARKINGS & TIM SALE
STORY · LETTERS · ART

COLOURS:
AXEL MEDELLIN
CAUGHT RED-HANDED

THANKS TO:
HAÏFA ADAM
FEMME FATALE

THANKS TO:
NABIL HOMSI
HARD BOILED EGG

THANKS TO:
LISA WOOD
BLUE ROSE

WHEN THE NIGHT COMES

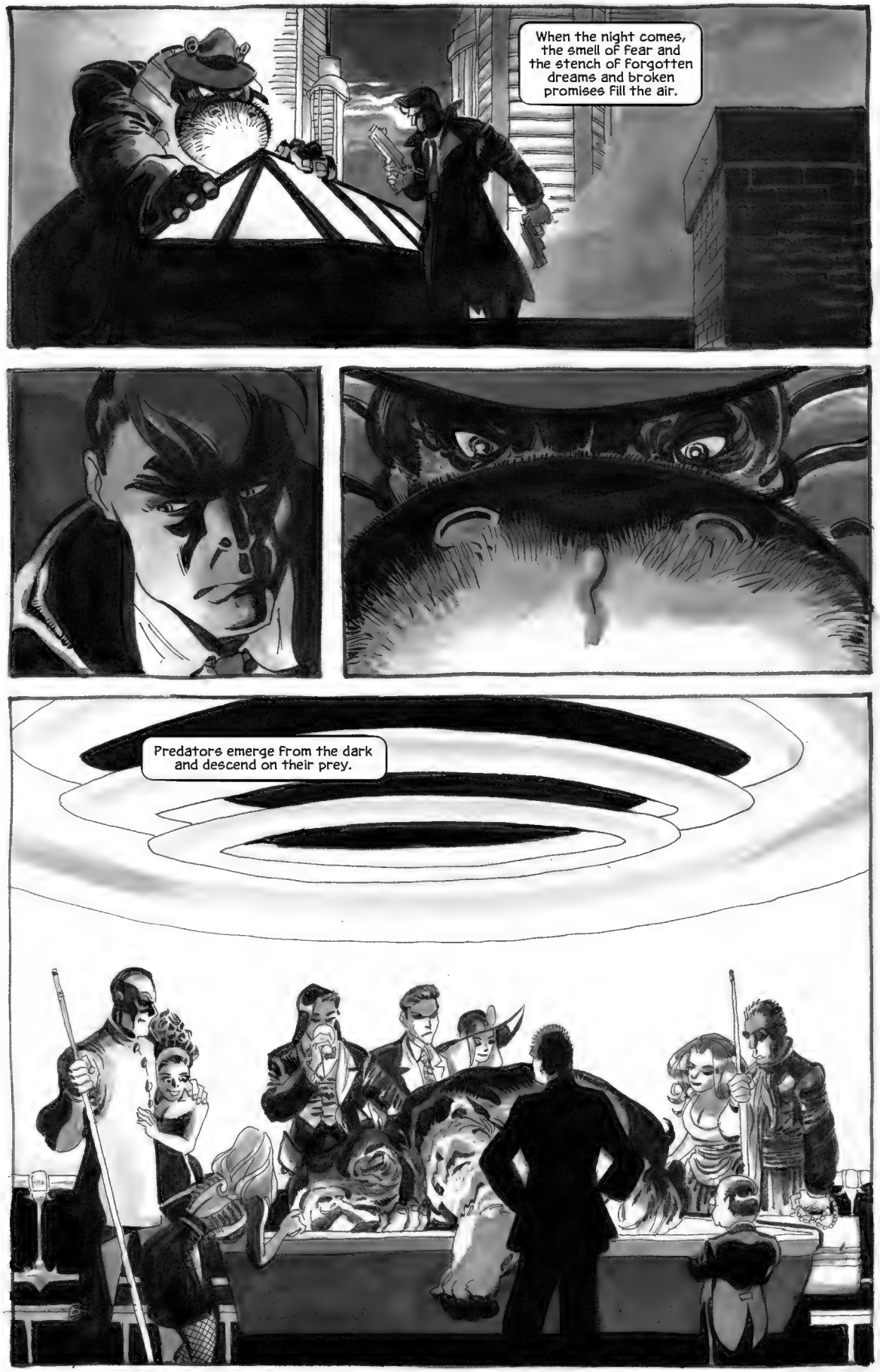
Lovers huddle and whisper longings in each other's ears.

TONIGHT

TONIGHT

TONIGHT

TONIGHT


When the night comes, the smell of fear and the stench of forgotten dreams and broken promises fill the air.
Predators emerge from the dark and descend on their prey.

When the night comes, flesh and bone meet concrete and steel.

The beating of your heart drowns out the pain of a lost love.

When the night comes, blood boils and spills.
The breathtaking beauty of life can be snuffed out in a moment.

When the night comes, tender eyes shine...
...and the taste of victory can be hard to distinguish from the taste of defeat.
Night comes and goes and lives are changed forever.

The night is a cruel mistress.
She is the fleeting remembrance of joy and sorrow.
She draws a veil over the day.

READ THE STORY OF FARRELL ≠ SCARLET IN ***ELEPHANTMEN 2260: MEMORIES OF THE FUTURE*** BY STARKINGS/MEDELLIN

GOODNIGHT KISS

RICHARD STARKINGS & TIM SALE

Y'know what got me thinking...?
That girl.
Lives on the Fourth Floor...
Her face...
...streaked with mascara tears...
Her shoes...
...she must have kicked them off on the street....
What was her name...?
PING
Sunny?
PING
Soleil?
PING
Summer!
PING
PING
PING
PING
PING
That got me thinking... why would she go to the top floor when she lives on the Fourth...?

SUMMER!
AIIEEEE
Eight floors... I figured if I caught her, we'd end up in hospital with multiple fractures, but we'd both be alive at least...
YEAH, RIGHT.
I GOT THIS, HOTSHOT
OH!
SUMMER! I'M SO SORRY! I DIDN'T MEAN... IF YOU'D...
MY LOVE, I WILL NEVER HURT YOU AGAIN!
YEAH, RIGHT...
AND HE GETS THE GOODNIGHT KISS?
FARRELL, THE ONLY THING YOU'RE KISSING TONIGHT IS THE SIDEWALK AFTER CLOSING TIME.
Y'RIGHT, FLASK. VODKA AND ASPHALT NEVER TURN THEIR CHEEKS ON ME.
RICH! TIM! 2015

"ELEPHANTMEN IS A REFLECTION ON THE HUMAN CONDITION. BUT RICHARD STARKINGS MANAGES TO VOID MAKING IT BORING OR PONDEROUS, CREATING INSTEAD A DARK, GRITTY AND ENTERTAINING STORY, WITH VALID CHARACTERS AND AWESOME WORLD BUILDING. AXEL MEDELLIN HELPS MAKE THIS SERIES GREAT WITH VERY DETAILED ART, FROM THE MACHINERY TO THE CREASES IN THE HARD SKIN OF EACH ELEPHANTMAN."

THE BIG GLASGOW COMIC PAGE

★★★★★

JACOB @ GOODREADS

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SEATTLEPI

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